

JUN 01 2004

OFFICIAL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. Of: SUGAWARA et al.

Serial No.: 09/707,816

Filed: November 7, 2000

For: DRIVING METHOD AND DRIVING CIRCUIT FOR COLOR ...

Group: 2673

Examiner: TOM V. SHENG

DOCKET: NEC N00204

MAIL STOP - AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT E UNDER RULE 116

(Remarks Only)

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Action mailed March 23, 2004.

The allowance of claims 5-8, 13, 15 and 16 is noted, with thanks.

Turning to the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11 and 12 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,483,496), the Examiner's rejection is in error.

The APA teaches a reference voltage generating circuit that generates the same reference voltage for each of the gamma compensating circuits (FIG. 19). Nowhere does the APA teach gamma compensating circuits that are supplied with independently generated reference voltages for each of a red characteristic, green characteristic and blue characteristic. Kobayashi et al. does not supply the missing teachings to Applicants' APA to render obvious Applicants' gamma compensation circuit. Kobayashi et al. teaches a reference voltage control signal 100 that functions as a brightness controller to output either RGB image data (DR, DG, DB) or reference

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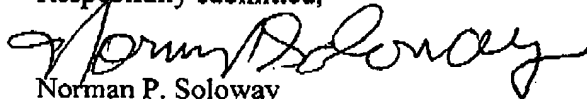
voltage data (CDR, CDG and CDB) (col. 6, lines 10-33). Nowhere does Kobayashi et al. teach a gamma compensating circuit or a gamma compensation circuit that performs independent compensation for a red signal, a green signal and a blue signal, as required by Applicants' claims. Nor does Kobayashi et al. teach a gamma compensation circuit that performs gamma compensation based upon transmitted characteristics that only apply to the respective red, green and blue signals, as required by Applicants' claims. Thus, no combination of Applicants' APA and Kobayashi et al. can achieve or render obvious claims 1 and 9, nor any claims dependent therefrom.

The foregoing Amendment makes no claim changes, and thus should be entered as a matter of right.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP - AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 1, 2004 at Tucson, Arizona.

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